



Frequently Asked Questions

About the Jump\$start National Educator Conference

1. Why is the conference held on a weekend?

After listening carefully to sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and—*most importantly*—teachers, we determined that a weekend conference would best accommodate participants' schedules. We recognize that it's not a perfect fit for everyone and that many people give up a significant amount of their personal time to join us; but the weekend also minimizes schools' use of substitute teachers, making it possible for more teachers to attend.

2. Why don't you include a tour of the city as part of the conference?

Jump\$start's National Educator Conference is focused, specifically, on personal finance education. With as much as the city has to offer, we still feel that a general tour doesn't match our objectives closely enough to justify the time and resources that would be required to offer one. To facilitate our participants' visit to the nation's capital, we have arranged a discounted rate at the conference hotel for anyone who wants to come in a day early and/or stay an extra day at the end, for sightseeing on their own.

3. Why is the dress code business-casual?

Jump\$start *recommends* business or business casual attire for all conference participants, consistent with most business, finance, and government conferences in this area. Definitions of "business casual" vary; so if you're not sure, we recommend checking some online resources and using your own good judgment.

4. Why not change to double-occupancy rooms in order to save cost?

Single hotel room accommodations are the industry standard for business, finance and government conferences. We believe that



education professionals should be offered the same consideration and our generous sponsors and underwriters support that cost.

It's important to note that hotels contract with conference organizers, like Jump\$tart, based on a number of interwoven factors. If we generate a lot of "sleeping room" revenue for the hotel, the hotel can give us better rates on the food, conference rooms, and other services. If we use fewer sleeping rooms, our costs go up in those other areas—so, doubling up on rooms may not save us as much as we might expect.

5. I don't need a hotel room; will you discount the registration fee?

Regretfully, no. As explained above, it is difficult to separate out just the sleeping accommodations, because the overall conference budget—and participant registration fee—is based on a number of related price elements. The \$350 registration fee is not broken down in specific allocations to food, accommodations, materials, etc. Rather, it is participants' share of the overall cost not covered by our generous sponsors and underwriters.

6. Why not open registration earlier than Labor Day?

Schools in various parts of the country begin their "fall" semester from early August through mid-September. The vast majority of schools are back in session by Labor Day and by opening registration at that time, we give teachers from different regions basically the same opportunity to register.

Additionally, Jump\$tart secures sponsorships and underwriters to subsidize the cost for teachers to participate. By fundraising from the time one conference ends, right through the following summer, we are able to set the teacher registration price as low as we possibly can.



7. Can I bring my spouse?

Spouses/guests are certainly welcome to share your hotel room; but due to room capacity issues, we must limit the workshop sessions to registered attendees only. Spouses/guests may attend the welcome reception on Friday evening, as well as the evening reception, dinner and performance on Saturday night, for an additional cost of \$85.00.

8. I'm not a licensed, full-time, public or private school classroom teacher, but I'm interested in financial education. How can I register?

Jump\$start's National Educator Conference was designed, specifically, with classroom teachers in mind—combining content knowledge with teaching techniques. Additionally, many of our funders have sponsored the event to meet their own objectives of supporting teachers and schools; therefore, classroom teachers are given top priority to register. In October, if there is still space available, we will open registration to: school administrators, parents who are home-schooling their own children, and others who teacher personal finance to PreK-12 students outside the U.S. or outside the formal classroom setting.

Other organizations, including many Jump\$start partners, conduct general financial literacy conferences. The [Society for Financial Education and Professional Development](#) hosts its annual Financial Literacy Leadership Conference in the Washington, DC area in October.

9. Last year, I met people who weren't classroom teachers—why is the conference so strictly limited this year?

Last year, we applied the same priority considerations as described above. We believe that budget constraints precluded many



teachers from attending and so, we were able to include other interested participants.

10. What is the best way to get to Washington, DC and to the Hyatt Regency?

Washington DC is served by three airports: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA); Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD); and Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). DCA is the closest to the conference hotel. IAD and, especially, BWI are thought to have less expensive airfare options - but be sure to factor in additional ground transportation costs. Washington's Union Station, which is walking distance from the hotel, services Amtrak and local railways. The Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill offers driving directions and public transportation suggestions on its website. *[By clicking the link, you will be leaving the Jump\$start website.]*

Should I attend this conference?

- ♦ If you teach, hope to teach, or may begin teaching personal finance in a public or private school, anywhere in the U.S., within any subject and at any grade level, PreK-12... *Yes!*
- ♦ If you are new to teaching personal finance—whether or not you're new to your teaching career—and you need some help getting started... *Yes!*
- ♦ If you are a veteran teacher just looking for a “refresher” and some innovative new ideas for bringing personal finance to life in your classroom... *Yes!*
- ♦ If you're the only one who teaches personal finance at your school and you're looking for a network of like-minded colleagues from across the country... *Yes!*



- ♦ If you're looking to discover—and try out—some of the best resources in financial education, but don't want to wade through an exhibit hall of unrelated products... *Yes!*
- ♦ If you're willing to commit to an intense day-and-a-half of financial literacy information, discussion (and fun!) ... *Yes!*